

EVALUATION OF NURSES KNOWLEDGE REGARDING INFECTION CONTROL AT HOSPITALS OF BASRA CITY CENTER

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted at three big hospitals of Basra government center (Basra General, Almawani, and Altaalimi Hospitals). A descriptive design was carried out through the period (16th) of August 2011 to (26th) of September 2012. The study aims to evaluate the educational level and knowledge of nurses about infection control. A purposive sample of 100 nurses (males and females) who work in these three hospitals was selected with different educational levels (intermediate school, preparatory school, institution, and college of nursing). A questionnaire was constructed for the purpose of the study. It comprised (25) items related to the subject of study. Content validity of the questionnaire was tested and determined through panel of experts. The data were collected through the application of structural interview. The data collection was initiated from 26th of August to 16th of September 2012. The data were analyzed through the application of frequency and percentage descriptive data analysis. The study concluded that the majority of nurses represent preparatory school of nursing, the minority of nurses represent college of nursing, nurses who represent college of nursing have the best level of knowledge comparing with the others, nurses from all educational levels need to develop and enhance their knowledge regarding infection control.

The study recommended that all nurses (males and females) from different educational levels must be involved in more obligatory courses about infection control to develop and refresh their knowledge, each hospital must have written, recognized, and strict policies regarding infection control, the continuing education units of hospitals must be activated for educating nurses regarding infection control throughout special educational programs designed, constructed, and presented for nurses through the concerned authorities, expansion of the registry base of students in colleges of nursing to graduate more cognitively and technically skilled nurses, further studies should be conducted about infection control on large samples concerning the educational levels of nursing as a whole

KEYWORDS: Evaluation of Nurses Knowledge, Infection Control, Questionnaire was Tested and Determined

INTRODUCTION

Infectious diseases are the major cause of death worldwide. WHO is the major regulatory agency at the international level (4). Good health depends on a safe environment. Practices or techniques that control or prevent transmission of infection help to protect clients and health care workers from disease (7). Infection control practices that reduce and/ or eliminate sources and transmission of infection help to protect clients and health care providers from disease. Clients in all health care settings are at risk for acquiring infections because of lower resistance to infectious microorganisms, exposure to an increased number of and more types of disease-causing organisms, and the performance of invasive procedures. A hospital is one of the most likely settings for acquiring a " nosocomial infection because of staff,

clients, and environmental factors that support a high population of virulent strains of microorganisms that are resistant to antibiotics. Most of nosocomial infections are transmitted by health care workers and clients as a result of direct contact during the delivery of care activities. Nurses are at risk for contact with infectious materials or exposure to a communicable disease, so the nurse must know the infectious organisms and how it is transmitted. Today's nurse plays a vital role in the prevention and control of infections (6). Nurses are directly involved in providing a biologically safe environment (4). As primary caregivers, nurses are involved in identifying, preventing, controlling, and teaching the patient about infections (8). Each department in the hospital must have written policies and procedures for the control of infection (2)

Statement: Evaluation of nurses knowledge regarding to infection control at hospitals of Basra city center.

Objective of the Study: To evaluate the educational level and knowledge of nurses about infection control.

METHODOLOGY

Descriptive design was carried out to evaluate the educational level and knowledge of nurses about infection control. The study was conducted in three big hospitals of Basra city center (Basra General, Al-Taalimy, and Al-Mawany hospitals) for the period of August 16th 2011 to September 26th 2012. A purposive sample of (100) nurses was selected (males & females) from different educational levels intermediate, preparatory, institute, and college of nursing) who work in these three big hospitals. A questionnaire was designed and constructed for the purpose of study depending on the references {3, 6}. The questionnaire was comprised of (25) items related to the subject of study. It was determined through a panel of five experts who work in different settings of Basra University. The experts had agreed that the questionnaire is appropriate tool for the study. Data were collected by the researcher through structural interview with the nurses and by the use of questionnaire. Data collection was begun from the 26th of August to the 16th of September 2012 at the setting of study. The data were analyzed through application of frequency and percentage.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY

Table 1: Distribution and Percentage of Nurses According to Their Educational Levels

Educational Level	Frequency	Percentage
Intermediate school of nursing graduates	14	14.0
Preparatory school of nursing graduates	44	44.0
Institute of nursing graduates	31	31.0
College of nursing graduates	11	11.0
Total	100	100

The majority of nurses represents preparatory school of nursing

Table 2: Evaluation of Knowledge for Nurses According to Their Answers

Educational Level	Answers		Percentage
	Correct	Wrong	
Intermediate school of nursing graduates	194	156	55.0
Preparatory school of nursing graduates	694	406	63.0
Institute of nursing graduates	484	291	62.0
College of nursing graduates	185	90	67.0
Total	1557	943	-----

The highest level of knowledge represents nurses who were graduated from college of nursing (baccalaureate degree)

Table 3: The Final Evaluation for All Educational Levels of Sample after Gathering

Educational Levels	Percentage
Intermediate school of nursing graduates	
+ Preparatory school of nursing graduates	62.0
+ Institute of nursing graduates	
+ College of nursing graduates	

Level of knowledge which represents summation of all different educational levels of sample is moderate

CONCLUSIONS

- The majority of nurses represents preparatory school of nursing.
- The minority of nurses represents college of nursing.
- Nurses who are graduated from college of nursing have the best level of knowledge comparing with the others
- Generally, nurses from all educational levels need to develop and enhance their knowledge regarding infection control.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- All nurses (males and females) from different educational levels must be involved in more obligatory courses to develop and refresh their knowledge about infection control.
- Each hospital must has written, recognized, and strict policies regarding infection control
- The continuing education units of hospitals must be activated for educating nurses regarding infection control.
- Expansion of the registry base of students in colleges of nursing to graduate more cognitively and technically skilled nurses.
- Farther studies should be conducted about infection control on large samples concerning the educational levels of nursing as a whole.

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